

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
parks and recreation**

A-1

07/24/2012

**Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes**

Tuesday, June 26, 2012
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
401 N. Morton St.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Carter at 4:00 p.m.

Board Present: John Carter, Les Coyne, Joe Hoffmann, Jane St. John

Staff Present: Mick Renneisen, Judy Seigle, Becky Barrick-Higgins, Leslie Brinson, Dave Williams, Kim Ecenbarger, Paula McDevitt, Julie Ramey, Steve Cotter, Michael Simmons, John Turnbull, Bill Ream, Crystal Ritter

Interns: Megan Betz

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A-1. Approval of Minutes of May 22, 2012 Meeting
- A-2. Approval of Claims Submitted May 23 – June 25, 2012
- A-3. Approval of Non-Reverting Budget Amendments
- A-4. Review of Business Report

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPEARANCES

B-1. Public Comment Period

B-2. Bravo Award – None this month

B-3. Parks Partner – None for this Month

Ms. Ritter addressed the Board stating that the June Bravo Award is being presented to Scott Burton for his volunteer time with the preschool program, Sport Shorties. She stated that he approaches his coaching role with enthusiasm and energy, focusing on the fundamentals of the game with a positive, supportive and patient approach. Mr. Burton shows compassion and empathy when coaching. He coaches children with varying levels of ability, assuring each one has a positive, equally rewarding experience. He has volunteered in the Sport Shorties program for the last three seasons and staff is very grateful for his involvement in the community.

Mr. Burton addressed the Board and stated that he is a huge Cubs fan and he has been known to get the children singing the Seventh Inning Stretch! He has a lot of fun volunteering with the program and the children.

B-4. Staff Introductions – Megan Betz – Intern

Ms. Betz addressed the Board and stated that she is interning with Ms. Veldman and Ms. Hobson with the Community Garden and Farmers' Market programs. She is a first-year graduate student at IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where she studies policy analysis and sustainability. She is passionate about developing local food systems,

domestic and abroad. She received her undergraduate degree from Ball State University where she majored in French and journalism with a concentration in public relations.

B-5. Staff Recognition – Michael Simmons

Ms. McDevitt addressed the Board and stated that Michael Simmons will be retiring from the department effective June 29. He has been with the department for 14 years and Peoples University has flourished under his guidance. Some of the more unique programs offered through this program include brunches at Oliver Winery, “The Perfect Cup of Tea”, keel boat sailing, ballroom dance classes, “Smoldering Made Simple”, and beginning ukulele classes. He has also been on the forefront of the gardening classes that have become so popular. He will be returning in the fall to teach some of the gardening classes. Ms. McDevitt read some remarks from some of Mr. Simmons’ colleagues. She ended with a Mark Twain quote.

Mr. Simmons addressed the Board stating that he was very touched by the kind words. He feels this position has been perfect for him to connect with so many members of the community. He thanked everyone he has worked with and looks forward to participating in the future as an instructor and volunteer.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

C-1. Review/Approval of Changes to Inclement Weather Policy

Mr. Turnbull addressed the Board seeking approval of changes to the inclement weather policy. He stated that there are currently some minor inconsistencies in procedures followed by staff in dealing with inclement weather. The proposed revisions to Policy #6060, SEVERE WEATHER RECOGNITION AND SAFETY PROCEDURES:

- Severe Weather Procedure – The program/site supervisor should remove participants from the playing/swimming/event area at the first sign of lightning and/or an approaching thunderstorm. Supervisors should not allow participants back on the playing/swimming/event area until 30 minutes after the last sign of lightning/thunder or until the storm has subsided.

This procedure comes from several authorities on lightening/thunder risk. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service is the most recognized authority on policy and this has been their recommendation for many years. Their partners in research and advocacy include American Red Cross and FEMA.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the changes to Policy 6060 Severe Weather Recognition and Safety Procedures. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

C-2. Review/Approval of Partnership Agreement with White River Co-Op for Drool in the Pool Event

Mr. Ream addressed the Board seeking approval of the partnership agreement with White River Co-Op for Drool in the Pool Event. He stated that this program is now in its eighth year and this is the sixth year for the official partnership with White River Co-Op. Last year Drool in the Pool was a very successful two-day event, held at Mills Pool, with 230 dogs and over 380 humans participating from the Bloomington community and surround areas. White River Co-Op secures vendors, judges, and prizes for the event as well as recruits volunteers to assist the day of the event. The 2012 event will once again be a two-day event held on Wednesday and Thursday, August 22nd and 23rd from 5-8pm at Mills Pool. The first day will be for swimming and a dog jumping/splash contest. The second day of the event will include swimming, more contests, giveaways and activities. Dog vendors will also be present to hand out samples and interact with the public. The zero depth entrance of Mills Pool allows dogs to have easy access in and out of the pool. Dog guards will be on duty to oversee all pool activity. No humans are allowed in the pool at any time. All dogs must have written proof of current vaccinations.

Ms. St. John made a motion to approve the partnership agreement with White River Co-Op for Drool in the Pool. Mr. Coyne seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

D. REPORTS

D-1. Recreation Division – No Report

D-2. Operations Division – No Report

D-3. Sports Division – No Report

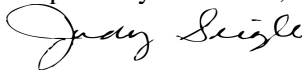
D-4. Administration Division – Bark for Your Park Update

Ms. Ramey addressed the Board and updated them on the Bark for Your Park contest. She stated that the department is currently participating in an on-line voting contest “Bark for Your Park” sponsored by PetSafe. She stated that several hundred cities were nominated for this contest and Bloomington, Indiana made the top 15 in the preliminary round. The top 15 cities are now competing for on-line votes. The winner is awarded \$100,000 from the private corporation, PetSafe. It is intended to be used to build a dog park. She stated that Bloomington is prepared to proceed with the development of the park should it receive the funding. In 2001, Steve Ferguson deeded 19 acres of property at Stone Mill Road and Old State Road 37. In addition, he donated \$50,000 to the Parks Foundation with the intent that the money and property be used to develop a dog park. With the impending draining of Griffy Park, the unofficial dog park will soon be closed. The \$100,000 would go a long way toward developing the park with plans already in existence. She added that there will be no fee to use the park once it is developed and it is located near the existing unofficial dog park at Griffy Lake. She encouraged the public to vote daily! The contest runs through July 31 and winners will be announced on August 3. For a direct link to the voting website, visit: bloomington.in.gov/bark.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Judy Seigle, Secretary Board of Park Commissioners